(d) whether there is any mechanism in place to monitor and prevent such scams and to take action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) The Government of Maharashtra has a wage employment Programme known as Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) being implemented in the rural areas of the State. This Programme is a State sector Programme of the Government of Maharashtra and the Centre has no role in the implementation of EGS in Maharashtra. As such, there is no information of any such scam available with this Ministry. No other State is implementing Employment Guarantee Programme at present.

Corruption in Regional Office of CAPART in Lucknow

† 3109. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology who have rendered financial work in spite of six months left in their retirement;

(b) the action taken by Government against said officers alongwith the names of these officers;

(c) whether Government are aware of the corruption prevalent in the Regional Office of CAPART Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh; if so, action being taken by Government against the employees involved in corruption; and

(d) the reasons for not providing second instalment to the institutions under Regional Office of CAPART, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and not appointing a monitor on their proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Only one officer has rendered financial work in spite of six months left in his retirement in the Regional Office of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Techology (CAPART) at Lucknow.

(b) A complaint was received against Shri V.K. Babu, the then Member Convenor, Regional Committee, Lucknow regarding corruption in the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

centre. Shri V.K. Babu, the then Regional Representative and Member Convenor, Lucknow was transferred and an inquiry was instituted against him. On the basis of the outcome of the inquiry report, the officer has since been exonerated.

(c) Complaints against the officials of Regional Office, CAPART, Lucknow were received and disciplinary action has been initiated against one of the officials of Regional Office, Lucknow.

(d) Instalments including second and subsequent ones in respect of sanctioned projects under Regional Office, CAPART, Lucknow, U.P. are being, provided. Facilitator-cum-Evaluators for monitoring of project proposals are also being deputed by the Regional Office, CAPART Lucknow.

Poverty eradication progammes

† 3110. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any programme with a view to bring in transparency and accountability in poverty eradication programmes having regard to the fact that one-fourth of the population of the country is still living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when, the said programme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the number of persons likely to be benefited out of the implementation of the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development have put in place a comprehensive mechanism to bring in transparency and accountability in implementation of poverty eradication programmes. At the grassroot level, the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are actively involved in planning and implementation of these programmes and even the list of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families is finalized by the Gram Sabha. Under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.